

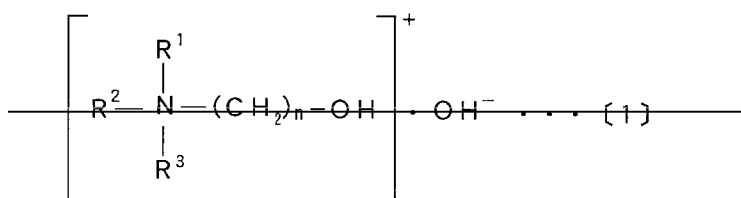
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 5, 15, and 16 and amend claims 8 and 11 as follows.

1 – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in an atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process, comprising:

~~preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:~~



~~in which R¹, R² and R³ are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10~~ (β-hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide,
and

adding only the ~~quaternary ammonium compound~~ (β-hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide to fluid containing water which contacts the inside of the atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process such that a pH value thereof at the top line of the atmospheric distillation column is 5.5 - 6.5, thereby reacting the (β-hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide with magnesium chloride and calcium chloride contained within the fluid to produce (β-hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydrochloride and preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

9 – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, comprising:

preparing (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide; and

adding only the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide to the desalted crude oil in between a crude oil desalter and a main distillation column in the crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, thereby reacting the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide with magnesium chloride and calcium chloride contained within the desalted crude oil to produce (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydrochloride and preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

12. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled to 0.1 - 5 times by molar equivalent the salts content in the desalted crude oil.

13. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the chloride ion concentration or pH of the condensed water in the main distillation unit is measured, and the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled based on the measurement results.

14. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled such that the chloride ion concentration (sodium chloride conversion) of the overhead receiver water is 0 - 30 mg/L or the pH of the overhead receiver water is 5.5 - 7.0.

15 – 16. (Canceled)